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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

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Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. On 19 December 2000, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/179, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe". By that resolution, the Assembly acknowledged the increasing contribution of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security in its region through activities in early warning and preventive diplomacy, including through the activities of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as arms control and disarmament. In the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue exploring with the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary-General of OSCE possibilities for further enhancement of cooperation, information exchange and coordination between the United Nations and OSCE. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to it at its fifty-sixth session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

II. Consultations and exchanges of information

2. During the past year, a number of meetings took place between officials of the United Nations and OSCE. In addition to my meetings with the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary-General of OSCE, of particular note was the participation by the Deputy Secretary-General in the meeting of the Ministerial Council of OSCE held in Vienna in November 2000; attendance by the Secretary-General of OSCE at the fourth High-level Meeting with heads of regional organizations which I convened in February 2001 on the subject of "Cooperation for peace-building"; and participation in the annual high-level tripartite meeting of the United Nations, OSCE and the Council of Europe, held in Vienna in February 2001 under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of OSCE, in accordance with the principle of annual rotation. The subject of this year's session was good governance.

3. The United Nations and OSCE have continued to practice a division of labour based on the comparative

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advantages of the two organizations, with the United Nations retaining the lead in efforts in Abkhazia, Georgia and in Tajikistan, while OSCE has the lead in the Republic of Moldova, South Ossetia, Georgia, and in the resolution of the conflict in and around the Nagorny-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Specific efforts have also been made to improve consultation and cooperation in the field and between the respective headquarters. These steps have resulted in enhanced coordination with the aim of making better use of the resources of the international community in the interests of the countries being assisted.

III. Information received from the United Nations system and others

A. United Nations Secretariat

1. Department of Peacekeeping Operations

(a) United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

4. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has actively supported the United Nations in its pursuit of a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, and has participated in multifaceted efforts undertaken within the framework of the United Nations-led Geneva peace process. In the field, both organizations continue to cooperate very closely within the framework of the activities carried out by the United Nations Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, as envisaged in the memorandum of understanding of 29 April 1997. The Office facilitated the realization of human rights projects financed by the OSCE mission to Georgia and implemented with the participation of international and local non-governmental organizations, such as the Association of Women of Abkhazia and the Gagra Youth Centre. The joint assessment mission undertaken to the Gali district in November 2000, the aim of which was to assess the conditions relevant to the safe, secure and dignified return and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons, is another example of fruitful cooperation on the ground. The report of that mission included, inter alia, a recommendation that a branch office of the Human Rights Office be set up in Gali.

(b) United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

5. The United Nations agencies and programmes operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina have continued to cooperate with OSCE in various fields. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) has supported OSCE in its election-related activities and worked closely with OSCE to ensure security during elections, implement election results, vet ministers of the interior and justice and remove obstructionist politicians. There has also been cooperation on the implementation of property legislation and a sharing of information on police misconduct and human rights violations, as well as on return-related incidents. In addition, UNMIBH and OSCE have jointly monitored particularly sensitive and significant criminal trials, such as those involving war crimes and allegations of police misconduct by senior law enforcement officials.

(c) United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

6. Cooperation between the United Nations and OSCE permeates every level of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). At the central level, the Head of OSCE, as the Deputy Special Representative for Institution-Building, attends the daily UNMIK Executive Committee meetings and is a member of the Interim Administrative and Kosovo Transitional Councils. OSCE is also part of the UNMIK Joint Planning Group, which prioritizes the Mission's objectives and harmonizes work by means of inter-pillar working groups. The OSCE field structure is in daily contact with UNMIK civil administration through both the Regional and Municipal Administrators in all matters relating to institution-building. At the regional level, a weekly meeting of the Executive Committee, which includes representatives from the three UNMIK pillars, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNMIK Police and International Security Force in Kosovo (KFOR), reviews developments and exchanges views on important issues and coordinates efforts of the various players.

7. UNMIK civil administration and OSCE work especially closely on electoral matters. The successful holding of municipal elections in October 2000 was a result of close United Nations-OSCE interaction. The Joint Registration Task Force, which provided an

opportunity to jointly plan resources and execute civil and voter registration, combined the polling expertise of OSCE and the administrative knowledge of UNMIK civil administration. Following the elections, UNMIK civil administration and OSCE, together with KFOR, set up a local help desk to advise the municipalities on issues pertaining to the implementation of the election results. After the October 2000 elections, the Department of Local Administration set up a Transition Task Force, comprising representatives of both UNMIK Civil Administration and OSCE, to oversee and support the consolidation of local institutions for self-government. While UNMIK civil administration continues to be responsible for implementing the regulation on self-government of municipalities, this remains closely linked with the implementation of the electoral law formulated by OSCE. In preparation for the Kosovo-wide elections to be held on 17 November 2001, UNMIK Civil Administration and OSCE have decided that civil and voter registration should occur concomitantly. OSCE will use the UNMIK Civil Registry to compile the voter registry, and the two organizations are jointly considering sites to be used for future voter services activities.

8. Cooperation has also extended into political capacity-building and the training of municipal officials. The University of Pristina, the Department of Education and Science and OSCE have established an Institute for Civil Administration at the University of Pristina to train professional civil servants. Immediately after the 2000 elections, the Institute provided various capacity-building and training programmes to both political parties and local civil administration. It also launched a series of training activities for personnel of the Joint Interim Administrative Structure. The OSCE's Joint Interim Administrative Structure Department of Democratic Governance and Civil Society, among other tasks, advises on applications for registration of political parties and on the drafting of related UNMIK regulations.

9. Close interface between the two organizations continues on the Victim Recovery and Identification Commission. OSCE has also supported UNMIK Civil Administration in the establishment of the Housing and Property Directorate and related regulations, as well as the Housing and Property Claims Commission. Through various monitoring reports, OSCE provides valuable input to the improved functioning of those bodies. OSCE closely monitors property rights violations and has focused on the issue of property vis-à-vis returns and the need to establish an effective system to address property rights disputes and access to reconstruction assistance. In addition, OSCE cooperates with UNHCR on the drafting of legal remedies to control the sale of minority property.

10. Interaction in the judicial field has been particularly strong. The Department of Justice and OSCE have collaborated in the implementation of the six-month judicial review, the monitoring of judicial proceedings, particularly in sensitive cases of an ethnic nature, and in the drafting of related UNMIK regulations. The Department of Education and Science is working closely with the OSCE-supported Kosovo Law Centre to modernize the Law Faculty at the University of Pristina. OSCE has played a fundamental role in establishing the Kosovo Law Centre and the Kosovo Judicial Institute, which train judges and prosecutors, including on issues pertaining to domestic violence and trafficking. Various joint working groups deal with issues relating to the functioning of the courts. OSCE has also been instrumental in the establishment of the Kosovo Police Service School. While UNMIK Police are responsible for recruitment and deployment of Kosovo Police Service officers, OSCE is responsible for their basic training. There is an UNMIK Police liaison officer stationed at the OSCE mission headquarters.

11. OSCE works with UNHCR to assess, monitor and propose solutions to the problems of minorities through the co-chaired Task Force on Minorities. The Joint Committee on Returns, which includes representatives from the United Nations UNHCR and OSCE, are exploring means to ensure the safe and sustainable return of Kosovo Serbs and other minority communities in a coordinated and systematic manner. The two pillars have also worked to develop the course content for a seminar on human rights for members of the Communities Committee of the Municipal Assemblies.

2. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

12. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and OSCE have extensive contacts in Georgia, where they exchange information regularly on peace, security, humanitarian and developmental issues with respect to Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Samtskhe-

Javakheti. In the Russian Federation, the Office cooperates with OSCE by sharing information on the humanitarian situation in the northern Caucasus during quarterly meetings held outside the Russian Federation. The OSCE also cooperates with the humanitarian community in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in monitoring the situation at the northern and western borders and in the areas affected by the ongoing conflict, in assessing the needs of the affected population and in sharing relevant information. A representative of OSCE is always present at inter-agency meetings to report to the rest of the humanitarian community on the outcome of the OSCE monitoring missions in the country.

13. The Fribourg Forum underlined the need for closer cooperation among the United Nations, European regional organizations and their member States to minimize duplication of initiatives and overlapping of responsibilities among key actors in humanitarian action. In this spirit, several meetings were held, at the executive level, between the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and OSCE for improving the effectiveness and coherence of policies impacting on decision-making and delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance in situations of crises where both organizations are present.

B. United Nations Office at Geneva

14. Regular bilateral contacts are maintained between the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Secretary-General of OSCE, who exchange visits to Vienna and Geneva at least once a year and more often, as required. The Director-General has been invited to address the Permanent Council in Vienna on matters pertaining to the role of the United Nations in promoting security in Europe. In turn, the Director-General has invited OSCE to participate in activities of the informal research and training network, which includes the United Nations institutes based in Geneva and Turin. The United Nations Office at Geneva has been invited by OSCE to participate in its annual meeting of Heads of Mission.

C. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

15. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) maintains close working relations with OSCE on a number of issues. One of the main concerns has been the development of a regional strategy against trafficking in human beings. OHCHR works with OSCE, as well as with the Council of Europe and other organizations in the Gender Task Force and the Trafficking Task Force of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. Objectives of cooperation include the development of a common regional approach and the promotion of relevant legal frameworks to prevent trafficking and provide protection to victims. Joint meetings and seminars are held in the region on a regular basis.

16. The Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression attended a round table discussion in Berlin in November 2000 on the protection of journalists in conflict zones hosted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Freimut Duve. The Special Rapporteur also met with Mr. Duve and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the Organization of American States, Mr. Santiago Cantón, later that month in London, in the context of an international seminar on promoting freedom of expression. A joint statement was adopted which focused on two issues of concern, namely, attacks on journalists and defamation law. The three mandate holders also agreed on a joint statement on racism and the media, which was issued on 1 March 2001 as part of the preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

17. OHCHR has participated in a number of human dimension meetings organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, including a conference on election processes held in Warsaw in May 2001. Members of the High Commissioner's office also attended a meeting of the OSCE Group on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, held in Vienna in June 2001, which focused on the issue of violence against women and ways to achieve better cooperation.

18. Inter-agency consultations on developments in Chechnya, Russian Federation, have taken place on a regular basis among OSCE, the Council of Europe, OHCHR and other organizations. OHCHR has also coordinated closely with OSCE field missions in Europe and Central Asia. In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, consultations have taken place in Belgrade between the two office's field missions on issues such as training, legal reform, and the establishment of a national human rights institution. In Kosovo, OHCHR works closely with the OSCE field presence, including as part of the Human Rights Training Coordination Group. The Office also seeks to coordinate its country activities with OSCE missions elsewhere in the region, including, for example, in the southern Caucasus, in order to maximize impact and avoid duplication. In Georgia, OHCHR and OSCE continue to operate jointly the Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, which is part of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia.

19. OSCE took an active role in events leading up to the World Conference against Racism, including by participating in an expert seminar for central and eastern European countries, held in Warsaw in July 2000, and the European Conference Against Racism at the Council of Europe, held in Strasbourg in October 2000. The Office of the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities took part in the meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Minorities held in Geneva in May 2001, and plans were made at that time for the High Commissioner's office to contribute to a publication on regional coordination in follow-up to the World Conference against Racism.

D. United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

20. The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and OSCE cooperate closely in addressing the issues of security in Europe, including in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Most of their interactive joint efforts fell within the ambit of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and protocols thereto, which deal with significant security issues in Europe. The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components, and Ammunition represents a noticeable development for OSCE, and the Office has been active in briefing OSCE committees and officials on this matter both formally and informally. The movements of migrants, refugees and the illicit traffic in human beings are other important issues for OSCE. The Office also participated in OSCE conferences and provided briefings on legal developments.

21. Through its Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention cooperated with the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings. The Task Force, chaired by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, is a cooperation mechanism for different organizations working in the field of trafficking, carrying out activities in the areas of awareness raising, training, law enforcement cooperation, victim protection programmes, reintegration assistance, legislative reform and prevention. The Global Programme supports the task force through information supply, particularly on the Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, which supplements the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and through data exchanges on trafficking.

22. The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention participated in the Information-Sharing Meeting on Central Asia convened in Vienna in 2000 by OSCE and also attended by representatives of several other United Nations and international organizations, international financial institutions, and bilateral assistance agencies. It reported on its main activities in Central Asia involving the countering of drugs and crime threat from Afghanistan. Venues for further cooperation between the Office and OSCE were also discussed. The Office and OSCE jointly organized, in October 2000 in Tashkent (Uzbekistan), an International Conference entitled "Enhancing security and stability in Central Asia: an integrated approach to counter drugs, organized crime and terrorism". At the Conference, all Central Asian countries endorsed a Declaration and the Priorities for Cooperation to Counter Drugs, Organized Crime and Terrorism in Central Asia which, inter alia, outlined directions for further cooperation between the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and OSCE.

23. The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention was represented at the Eighth Ministerial Council of OSCE in November 2000, which addressed such issues as children in armed conflict

areas, trafficking in human beings and drugs, agreement on small arms and efforts to promote media freedom. Recognizing drug trafficking as a threat to regional stability and security, OSCE includes this issue on the agenda of its high-level meetings.

24. Concerning specifically the Balkan region, although no formal or informal cooperative initiative has taken place, both organizations share a similar objective with respect to improving stability in the region. For example the Office's efforts to strengthen the civilian policing and customs efforts in drug control and law enforcement contribute to stability in the region. In this context, improved intelligence systems and cross border and regional cooperation are important steps in the building of solid relationships in view of such stability.

E. Economic Commission for Europe

25. Since the eighth OSCE Economic Forum, which was held in Prague in April 2000, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has continued its efforts towards building fruitful and results-oriented cooperation with the economic dimension of OSCE. Such cooperation is long-standing and logical, given the similarities that exist between both organizations and the fact that each offers its members a framework for cooperation and dialogue and share virtually the same membership. In recent years, this relationship has grown closer because of renewed challenges in a number of regions and the need to prevent at all costs the recurrence of conflicts that have plagued South-East Europe in particular, and that still pose threats to security.

26. ECE was active in all three preparatory seminars for the ninth OSCE Economic Forum on transparency and good governance in economic matters, which was held in Prague in May 2001. The first seminar, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, concentrated on global, regional and national instruments in promoting transparency and good governance. ECE presented a paper in which the need for implementation and enforcement of the existing international conventions and national legal conventions was emphasized. The seminar held in Brussels elaborated on the concept of good governance and on its relevance for the functioning of both public and private sectors in the context of globalization. ECE presented a paper on that topic and acted as rapporteur for a working group. The third seminar, held in Bucharest, focused on the interplay between various actors in promoting good governance and transparency. ECE presented a paper on corruption and acted as the moderator of one of the working groups. At the ninth OSCE Economic Forum, the ECE Executive Secretary presented the ECE discussion document which reviewed the implementation by OSCE States of commitments made in the economic dimension. ECE also presented a paper on instruments to promote good governance and transparency, using the case of the Aarhus Convention. At these events, ECE worked closely with the OSCE Chairperson in Office and the Coordinator of OSCE economic and environmental activities, and has also cooperated with OSCE local missions, particularly in the area of environment. The recent participation by ECE in the training of OSCE field officers in Vienna and has helped to further develop ties and such cooperation will focus on organizing and designing activities to develop institutions and capacities for compliance of its conventions.

27. Currently, under the auspices of the Romanian Chairman-in-Office, there is an ongoing discussion on the strengthening of the economic dimension. ECE will cooperate in this process and has made a number of offers. The first is to hold a joint seminar with OSCE on strengthening the economic dimension to be held in Switzerland in the autumn. The second is a training programme for government officials on conflict prevention, using multidimensional approaches. In addition, ECE has offered to assist OSCE in reviewing its economic commitments in the light of the changes that have taken place since the OSCE last adopted a substantive set of commitments at the Bonn Conference of 1990.

F. United Nations Development Programme

28. In Tajikistan, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-OSCE collaborative efforts contributed to promoting peace and democracy. In 1999, UNDP and OSCE jointly organized three major events in support of the electoral process in Tajikistan, which created the foundation upon which international agencies working in the area of human rights, electoral reform and democratization would base their activities. In 2000, OSCE implemented the UNDP project on support to the civic education process, which was

successful in promoting equal and free representation of civic society in the political process. In addition, UNDP and OSCE were involved in promoting gender issues through close collaboration in the UNDP/Women in Development Bureau project.

29. In Kyrgyzstan, UNDP joint efforts with the OHCHR and OSCE resulted in the participation of representatives from civil society and non-governmental organizations jointly with the Government's Working Group in the formulation of a national law on Ombudsman. UNDP actively participated in a round table organized by the Kyrgyz Parliament and OSCE to discuss the draft law on ombudsman. It is expected that this cooperation will be continued once the law has been passed. In early 2000, the UNDP-supported Gender in Development Bureau, jointly with OSCE and other key donors, established the Gender Coordination Group to address a broad range of issues related to women's rights and their socio-economic advancement. Thanks to this cooperation, an international conference, entitled "Women of Kyrgyzstan at the edge of centuries" was convened. In March 2001, United Nations/UNDP-OSCE cooperation in southern Kyrgyzstan resulted in the establishment of the Information Sharing and Consultation South Group. Its major goal is to bring together organizations working at the policy level (OSCE, International Crisis Group) and the grass-roots level (UNDP, non-governmental organization Foundation for Tolerance International) to exchange information on such important issues as ethnic relationships, potential political violence, border and land issues, social infrastructure, landmines and the general security situation in southern Kyrgyzstan and neighbouring countries.

30. In Uzbekistan, UNDP and OSCE cooperated in supporting the Ombudsman's Office, with OSCE providing training for staff of the Tashkent and regional offices, building on earlier UNDP interventions. UNDP and OSCE also provided training in human rights monitoring and reporting for representatives of national human rights institutions and civil society representatives.

31. The UNDP Office in Kosovo, in close collaboration with OSCE, which is responsible for institution-building and media development, UNMIK, the Government of Japan and the United Nations Office for Project Services jointly developed a Media and Public Information Capacity Development Programme which was implemented in May 2000 with a total budget of US$ 14.5 million donated by the Government of Japan. Through the project, local journalists were trained in production and public information service delivery to prepare them for the October 2000 municipal elections. A radio and television terrestrial transmittal system was also established.

32. The UNDP office in Latvia has had a particularly close and strategic relationship with the resident OSCE mission, which has intensified recently. The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities has helped UNDP to mobilize resources by writing personally to prime ministers and foreign ministers to request support for the UNDP programme for Latvian language training. Some joint press conferences and donor meetings on the subject have also taken place. In relation to the Social Integration Programme, in which UNDP is playing a leading role, two OSCE proposed projects have been formulated under the UNDP umbrella. UNDP and OSCE have been working together more recently on a joint mission of experts to advise the Latvian Government and Parliament on institutional and legal measures to strengthen the national regime for human rights and the handling of complaints. The report was submitted to the State President and Government in early June 2001 and formed the basis for a national conference organized by the President's Chancellery on Ombudsman and human rights institutions.

33. In Ukraine, the ongoing cooperation between UNDP, other United Nations agencies and OSCE continued in dealing with the resettlement of the some 260,000 formerly deported peoples, which has presented a considerable challenge for the social and economic development of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea. To further strengthen conflict prevention and promote social cohesion, OSCE, together with UNDP, UNHCR and the Government of Ukraine initiated a donor appeal process which culminated in the International Donors Conference on Humanitarian and Development Dimensions of Population Integration in Crimea which took place on 6 December 2000 in Ukraine. The meeting provided participants with a good impression of the importance of the humanitarian and development problems of resettlement of formerly deported peoples, the progress made by Ukrainian and international partners in this venture, and the considerable needs that still exist in

order to reach the final goal of assuring a quality of life for the returnees, at least equal to that of other citizens in Crimea and Ukraine.

G. United Nations Environment Programme

34. Although the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has not set up a formal framework for cooperation with OSCE, collaboration has increased substantially in recent years, particularly through the UNEP Regional Office for Europe and the UNEP Balkans Unit. In addition, the UNEP Regional Office for Europe participated in several OSCE meetings, including the OSCE Aral Sea Conferences in Tashkent and Prague. In October 2000, the Regional Office made a presentation on UNEP activities to OSCE field officers in Vienna.

H. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

35. Over the last few years UNHCR interface with the OSCE has developed into a comprehensive strategic partnership, focusing on the prevention of mass displacement, the recognition of the critical linkage between displacement and security and the need to address the human dimension of conflict resolution processes. Regular meetings and consultations between UNHCR and OSCE counterparts continue at all levels. UNHCR staff members are at the service of OSCE bodies and institutions in Vienna to facilitate effective information flow and support to cooperative endeavours. Participation at meetings, seminars and conferences has also been strengthened. UNHCR appreciated the recent initiative of the Chairman-in-Office to invite UNHCR to participate in major field visits (southern Caucasus and Central Asia), and is fully supportive of any opportunity to participate in OSCE regional and subregional events and to strengthen interaction at the field level.

36. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CIS region), the process of the CIS Conference, now retitled "the follow-up to the 1996 Geneva Conference on the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Migration and Asylum Issues", continues to provide a platform for cooperation on the ground by mainstreaming relevant activities into country operations, on the basis of a thematic approach to priority areas adopted at the fifth session of the Steering Group (July 2000), and a further developed joint work plan involving UNHCR, OSCE, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Council of Europe.

37. Contacts in the framework of the Minsk Group (conflict over the Nagorny-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan), including through the Office of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office based in Tbilisi, and regular consultations on issues related to addressing the needs of displaced population and refugees have intensified over a period of time. UNHCR supports confidence-building measures and does contingency planning on human dimension issues in the case of political settlement of the conflict.

38. Implementing decisions of the Istanbul Summit, OSCE offices in Yerevan (Armenia) and Baku (Azerbaijan) have become operational in the course of 2000. Although concrete modalities of cooperation between the two organizations in these countries are still in the making, there is already a clearer understanding of the planned content of such partnership, in addition to a general agreement to maintain regular contacts on a wide range of topics. In Armenia, UNHCR and OSCE complement each other's activities in such fields as human rights, statelessness, non-governmental organizations and the building of civil society, internal population displacement, democratization processes, and media development. There are also ongoing discussions on a joint research project on the *propiska* issues, with a certain emphasis on refugees. In Azerbaijan, the possibility of cooperation on issues related to the full implementation of the national citizenship law of 1998 and the non-governmental organization law adopted in July 2000 is now being considered. In addition, a preliminary agreement has been reached to jointly review the situation of internal displacement from the viewpoint of human rights (e.g. freedom of movement, participation in elections, privatization).

39. In Georgia, the Joint Control Commission, in which UNHCR is a partner, brings together representatives of the Government of Georgia, South Ossetia, the Russian Federation and North Ossetia-Alania to promote solutions and build confidence among the parties. UNHCR participated in a joint United Nations-OSCE mission to the Gali District of Abkhazia, Georgia (see para. 4 above). Concerning Chechen refugees in Pankisi Gorge (Georgia), UNHCR

appreciates the role of OSCE in helping to reduce tensions through border monitoring, while UNHCR addresses protection and assistance issues in the valley.

40. UNHCR maintains a close working relationship with the OSCE mission in Moldova, the prime actor involved in mediation of the conflict. Several joint missions have been undertaken, with the aim of exploring the possibility of linking UNHCR projects with OSCE mediation efforts. UNHCR enjoys support from the OSCE mission in gaining access to the Transdniestrian region in the Republic of Moldova. Close cooperation also has developed between UNHCR and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

41. In the Russian Federation, most contacts with the OSCE Assistance Group for Chechnya are focused on information-sharing and purposes of future cooperation in the north Caucasus.

42. UNHCR enjoys continued cooperation with the OSCE/High Commissioner on National Minorities within the framework of inter-agency support to integrate formerly deported peoples returning to Crimea, Ukraine. A donor Conference for the formerly deported peoples of Crimea was organized by the OSCE/High Commissioner on National Minorities in close collaboration with UNHCR, UNDP and IOM in December 2000. UNHCR offices in the five countries of Central Asia enjoy close cooperation with their OSCE counterparts, with regular discussions and exchanges of views. Periodic seminars are jointly financed by the two agencies on human rights and refugee law in the Central Asian countries. In Kazakhstan, UNHCR and OSCE agreed to organize some joint initiatives in the fields of legislative reforms, strengthening of civil society and potentially in the training of civil servants. Cooperation in Kyrgyzstan includes the sharing of information on political developments and some joint projects such as the annual summer course on human rights. In Tajikistan, following the hand-over by UNHCR of reintegration activities, the OSCE, in close coordination with UNHCR, is engaged in the monitoring of returnees' human rights. In Turkmenistan, the collaboration extends to cooperative initiatives to promote refugee law. A particularly delicate human rights situation in Uzbekistan tends to take priority over refugee issues on the OSCE or Government agenda. UNHCR-OSCE cooperation is thus limited, though mutual support is extended whenever needed (e.g., in areas concerning migration, the *propiska* system and training of judiciary, prosecutors and advocates on international human rights standards, etc.).

43. In South-Eastern Europe, UNHCR participates in the OSCE-chaired Friends of Albania initiative. There is also close coordination and cooperation between UNHCR and OSCE through participation in coordinating groups in Bosnia set up under the umbrella of the Human Rights Steering Board. At the field level, UNHCR protection and field officers are cooperating and coordinating with OSCE human rights officers through existing working groups such as the Human Rights Working Group, Property Commissions and Refugee Return Task Forces.

44. In Croatia, among international organizations, OSCE is the main player on political issues, while UNHCR is the lead humanitarian agency. Cooperation takes place at all levels, both in the field and centrally in Zagreb, with regard to the return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

45. UNHCR-OSCE cooperation in Kosovo covers a range of issues related to the protection of minority communities. Both organizations continue to participate in the Ad Hoc Task Force on Minorities, currently under joint chairing arrangements. There is continued collaboration on the production of joint assessment reports on the situation of ethnic minorities in Kosovo (the seventh report was issued in March 2001), stabilization of minority communities, fostering conditions conducive to the safe return of minority internally displaced persons, implementation of the UNHCR Platform of Action for the Return of Roma, Ashkalija and Egyptian communities to Kosovo. UNHCR-OSCE cooperation has also been extended to property rights, gender-related issues, rule of law and judiciary and returns and trafficking in human beings.

46. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNHCR works closely with the OSCE mission in monitoring the situation in the villages in border areas, interacting with the Government on the issues of confidence-building in the areas affected by armed conflict, information-sharing on refugee and minority issues through regular meetings, capacity-building for local Roma non-governmental organizations, (including round tables, seminars and workshops) and media training seminars aimed at developing the

standard of journalism and at raising awareness of refugee-associated issues.

47. With the opening of the OSCE mission office in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, contacts between the two organizations received a new impetus for building complementary activities to support the integration and improve the treatment of Albanian minority communities in southern Serbia, legal reform impacting on asylum seekers and refugees, training activities on human rights and asylum issues, and promotion of conditions for the return of displaced and refugee populations to Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, especially in the area of property rights.

48. In Montenegro, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, UNHCR and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights are cooperating in capacity-building and joint training activities for the judiciary, the police, and civil society (lawyers and NGOs). For example, during 2001, UNHCR and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights will conduct joint training sessions for border authorities on asylum and trafficking issues. Later in the year, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights plans to hold a seminar on trafficking issues at which UNHCR will make a presentation on asylum issues.

I. United Nations Children's Fund

49. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has become a new ally in defending children's rights in war and armed conflict. The Warsaw "Human Dimension seminar on children and armed conflict", held in May 2000, engaged the OSCE in a results-oriented process to ensure the full integration of the rights of the child into all spheres of OSCE activity, political as well as operational, in fulfilment of Security Council resolution 1261 (1999). Key recommendations for action included: (a) to establish and make public a comprehensive and open-ended list of early warning indicators related to children, make it subject of monitoring by field mission personnel, and ensure that the results be made available to the decision-making levels; (b) to disseminate information on and raise awareness of international standards on child rights, as laid down in the OSCE Code of Conduct, including in armed forces and police as well as among non-state actors; (c) to consider how best to promote adherence to commitments under international law to provide access for humanitarian assistance during conflict; (d) to promote the concept of children as a "zone of peace"; (e) to ensure that protection of children becomes an integral part of OSCE-mediated peace negotiations and subsequent peace agreements; (f) to provide a framework for the creation of templates for, and facilitate the broadcast of, radio and television programmes for children in conflict and post-conflict areas, locally or through the national and international services of broadcasters.

50. The Executive Director of UNICEF met in February with the Foreign Minister of Romania in his capacity as Chairman-in-Office of OSCE. One particular focus was on building capacity on children's issues, which is now being articulated in an OSCE policy document entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights, interests and welfare of children, in particular in armed conflict". UNICEF has been actively involved in this process and is deepening its cooperation with OSCE field missions. In October 2000, for the first time, the OSCE devoted a session of its Human Dimension Implementation Meeting to "the rights of the child and children and armed conflict", in which UNICEF made an introductory statement. OSCE plans to appoint a special representative for children's rights who will guide its activities in that area, ensure collaboration with international agencies, non-governmental organizations and national institutions, and report on a regular basis to the various political and security bodies of OSCE. Several projects have been run jointly by UNICEF and OSCE over the past year. The "Young Voices" poll consisted in a survey of the views of children and adolescents in Europe and central Asia about basic issues of politics, human rights and society. UNICEF and OSCE jointly set up a Task Force on human trafficking in September 2000 under the aegis of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. Its second meeting took place in Vienna on 27 and 28 April 2001. This Task Force provides anti-trafficking initiatives with a coordination mechanism, and all forms of trafficking (in children, forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation) are on the table. Although trafficking is still viewed very much in terms of law enforcement in the context of controlling migration, the importance of prevention (addressing the social and economic causes of trafficking) and a special focus on health risks, including human immunodeficiency virus/ acquired immunodeficiency

syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and sexually transmitted diseases, are being internalized by Governments.

51. In Kosovo, together with OSCE, UNICEF took the lead in drafting a new juvenile justice criminal code, which seeks to ensure protection of the rights of children in conflict with the law. In addition, UNICEF and the OSCE legal affairs section are monitoring the status of children apprehended by the police, children in detention and children in court.

J. World Food Programme

52. While the World Food Programme (WFP) does not have a global coordination mechanism with OSCE, several instances show that, where warranted, coordination and complementarity are well ensured at the field level. These include in the Russian Federation, where OSCE provided some food assistance to internally displaced persons and local vulnerable groups in Nadterechnya district in the north of Chechnya, a region not covered by WFP assistance. In Kosovo, WFP continues to cooperate with OSCE, especially since the OSCE civil registration campaign has provided updated population figures to WFP for use in its 2001 programming. OSCE attended the regular regional presentations of WFP on the Safety Net food assistance programme. The presentations were aimed at ensuring that all agencies understand the rationale behind the programme and can provide a consistent response to public enquiries. Since food assistance is only one component of the larger international humanitarian effort in Kosovo, coordination at the field level is crucial. WFP therefore appreciates information forwarded by OSCE from its work on population movements and beneficiary needs. In turn, WFP is able to respond quickly to the needs of those vulnerable populations.

K. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

53. Although there is no formal agreement of cooperation between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and OSCE, numerous joint initiatives have been carried out, mainly at the country level. For example, an International Congress on Intercultural Education was held in Finland in September 2000 and OSCE invited UNESCO to several consultative meetings on issues related to freedom of the press, as well as to a donors conference for independent media in Kosovo. UNESCO also provided expertise to OSCE in the drafting of new media legislation in Kosovo and assisted in the preparation of the distribution of independent Serbian print media to the Serbian minority in Kosovo. In the field of social and human sciences, a representative of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights participated in the eleventh annual meeting of the Rectors of Human Rights, Research and Training Institutions held at UNESCO headquarters in January 2001.

L. International Organization for Migration

54. On electoral matters, OSCE and the IOM enjoy long-standing cooperation on absentee voting in the Balkans. In 2000, UNMIK and IOM concluded a memorandum of understanding regarding the registration of Kosovars living outside Kosovo for the conduct of municipal elections under UNMIK/OSCE auspices. In view of the Kosovo parliamentary elections scheduled for 17 November 2001, IOM is again cooperating with OSCE to register voters residing outside Kosovo and to organize the actual balloting, including Serbs displaced from Kosovo to other parts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Registration and balloting will be carried out in person in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania and by mail in some 35 other countries.

55. In the Balkans, within the Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings led by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, IOM is responsible for coordinating the area of return and reintegration assistance and co-chairs two other areas of concern, namely, victim protection and awareness-raising. IOM, together with the Office, leads a research project, entitled "Data collection on trafficking in human beings to, through and from the Balkan region", the results of which will facilitate policy formulation and programmatic responses of the Task Force. IOM and OSCE are working closely in Croatia to facilitate the development and secure funding for Croatia's National Action Plan on Counter-Trafficking of Women for the Purposes of Sexual Exploitation. In addition, joint field visits have been carried out in

order to assess returnee and refugee problems in war-affected areas, as well as the growing problem of irregular migration transiting through the Croatian territory. The Kosovo Direct Assistance Programme for Trafficked Women addresses the needs of women trafficked to or through Kosovo. Standard operating procedures between the main contributing partners IOM, OSCE and UNMIK assure very close cooperation on a daily basis in providing assistance to victims who express the desire to return home. IOM and OSCE are contributing partners in regional meetings with police, judiciary and other concerned entities. OSCE, via the Kosovo Judicial Institute, and IOM are together planning training for judges and prosecutors as regards the trafficking situation in Kosovo and the implementation of the regulation against trafficking in force since January 2001, and in the drafting of which both IOM and OSCE participated. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, IOM and OSCE cooperate regularly on counter-trafficking activities with IOM responsible for operational aspects and OSCE addressing political aspects. Both organizations are partners in promoting legislative review and reform as regards smuggling of and trafficking in human beings.

56. In Ukraine, IOM and OSCE have jointly developed a programme to support the creation and establishment of a "National Council against Trafficking in Human Beings" under the auspices of the Ukrainian Ombudsman. In collaboration with OSCE and UNICEF, IOM implements a research project on trafficking in human beings from Armenia. The cooperation is expected to continue through follow-up activities to the study. In Kyrgyzstan, IOM and OSCE conducted jointly funded research on trafficking in migrants, in particular women and children. As a result, both IOM and OSCE were invited by the State Secretary of Kyrgyzstan to provide recommendations to address trafficking from the Republic. Both organizations agreed to cooperate on improving legislation on counter trafficking measures. The Regional Centre for Migration and Refugee Issues in Bishkek has invited IOM and OSCE to jointly organize a meeting on issues of illegal migration.

57. Other areas of cooperation with OSCE include capacity-building in migration management in Ukraine; participation in the return of internally displaced persons from the Gorno Badakhshan region of Tajikistan (since 1997); and, more recently, the return of Tajik refugees from Turkmenistan (ongoing). There are also projects which promote the integration into Estonian society of the wives of former Soviet armed forces officers and a project in Latvia to assist non-citizens of Russian origin to return to the Russian Federation.

58. A 1996 "Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring Countries" established a broad framework for Governments to address migration and displacement problems in accordance with international standards and provided a basis for other interested States and organizations (UNHCR, IOM, OSCE) to support CIS countries in an effort to link migration, displacement and security through complementarity of expertise and objectives. The last Steering Group meeting, held in July 2000, recommended the continuation of the process until the end of 2004.

59. IOM also participates regularly in OSCE forum activities and is associated with the tripartite United Nations-OSCE Council of Europe consultative mechanism, which also provides the context for target-oriented meetings on topics of current interest.